

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are currently pending in the application; Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 15, 22, and 25 having been amended, and new dependent Claims 27-37 having been added, by way of the present response.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,735 to Tsai. Applicants respectfully assert that the above amendments have overcome the rejection of the claims for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to disc drives for driving disc shaped recording medium, as well as optical disc drives for recording data on and/or reproducing data from optical discs. Independent Claim 1 recites, in part, four receiving portions adapted to receive support for a base, the receiving portions being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along a direction of a movement of a recording and/or reading means on four corners of the base. Four supporting means are disposed in four receiving portions, at least one of the four supporting means including a support piece and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the support piece. Independent Claim 8 recites a plurality of supporting means each with an associated elastic member adapted to elastically support a base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along a direction of a movement of an optical pickup. Four receiving portions are disposed on four corners of the base for receiving the supporting means. Independent Claim 15 recites a base having four receiving portions on four corners. A base support member supports the base with a plurality of supporting means disposed

symmetrically with respect to a center line of the base along a direction of a movement of an optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base, each of the supporting means including an elastic member and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member. Independent Claim 22 recites a base having four receiving portions on four corners. A plurality of supporting means are disposed on a base with an associated elastic member adapted to elastically support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along a direction of a movement of an optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base. Independent Claim 25 recites a base having four receiving portions on four corners. At least four supporting means each have an associated elastic member adapted to elastically support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along a direction of a movement of an optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base.

Tsai is directed to a tilt angle adjusting mechanism for a compact disc recording/reproduction device. As shown in Figure 1, for example, of Tsai, several shock-absorbing elements 18 are attached to a base 10 for protecting a pick-up head 20.¹

Applicants respectfully assert that because the shock-absorbing elements 18 do not include an adjusting piece to adjust an elasticity of the shock-absorbing elements 18, for example, in Tsai, Tsai does not teach or suggest the claimed features of supporting means including (i) a support piece or an elastic member and (ii) an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the support piece or elastic member, as recited in independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25.

¹ Column 2, lines 29-31.

Specifically, independent Claim 1 recites “four supporting means disposed in the four receiving portions, at least one of the four supporting means comprising a support piece and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the support piece.” Independent Claim 8 recites “a plurality of supporting means each with an associated elastic member adapted to elastically support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup.”

Independent Claim 15 recites “a base support member for supporting the base with a plurality of supporting means disposed symmetrically with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base, each of the supporting means including an elastic member and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member.” Independent Claim 22 recites “a plurality of supporting means disposed on the base with an associated elastic member adapted to elastically support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base.” Independent Claim 25 recites “at least four supporting means each with an associated elastic member adapted to elastically support the base and an adjusting piece adapted to adjust an elasticity of the elastic member, the supporting means being disposed symmetrically on the base with respect to a center line of the base along the direction of the movement of the optical pickup and on the receiving portions of the base.”

Thus, for the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claim 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn, and the allowance of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23, 24, and 26 depend from independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25, and are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn and the allowance of the dependent claims.

Applicants respectfully assert that new Claims 27-37 depend from independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 22, and 25, and are therefore also allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims, as well as for their own features. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of new dependent Claims 27-37.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-37 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

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